The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the legislative, executive, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter ... at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 6. NO. 45. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1917. WHOLE NO. 305.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN DUALISTS ARE CHECKED

Baltimore, Feb. 3.—The firm of L. Grief & Brother, clothing manufacturers, has signed an agreement with United Garment Workers' union, local No. 7.

None but good standing members of this union shall be employed. If the union is unable to furnish operatives the firm may employ non-members, with the understanding that they must apply for membership in local No. 7 within five weeks. The union reserves the right to reject any applications, and in case either the firm agrees to dispense with the services of the rejected applicant.

Forty-eight hours shall constitute a week's work and no member shall be penalized for refusing to work overtime.

Wages are increased 10 per cent., with double time for work done on Sundays, Christmas, New Years, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving.

Conciliation and arbitration arrangements for the settlement of grievances are included and it is further agreed that any employe unable to remain at work because of weather conditions shall be paid for time lost at the prevailing wage rate.

The agreement benefits 700 operatives. While the gains are most substantial, they are of more than local significance because this city has been one of the centers of a noisy secession movement that has attracted to direct support the aid of the bont fide trade union movement, represented by the United Garment Workers.

The agreement is a hard blow to these secessionists, who are being successfully resisted through the organization conducted by the local federation of labor and its president, John Ferguson.

FAIL TO STARVE STRIKERS.

Great Falls, Mont., Feb. 2.—After a five-weeks' strike Flour and Cereal Mill Employes' union, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, has signed the Washburn & Crosby Milling company and the Employers' association of Great Falls in their attempt to starve these strikers into submission.

A union shop agreement has been signed, wages are increased from 20 cents to $1 a day, the company will reinstate all strikers and will receive committee of adjust future grievances.

Two weeks after the strike was called the local bakeryers' association closed all the grocery stores to the strikers. The order could not reach a store owned by Great Falls trade unionists. The employers then ordered wholesale houses not to supply the union stores. The result was a flank movement by having friendly restaurants order the goods, after two days of the strike. The union supplies received their mistake and willed to the order. This was followed by the company's refusal to meet a committee of strikers. The Employers' association was excluded from this conference and in two hours an agreement was reached.

NEW JERSEY PRISONS PROBED.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 3.—Chairman Dixon of the special committee appointed by the state legislature to investigate penal institutions has notified newspaper men that Governor Fielder has announced that he will say that contract labor of the prison would be stopped just as soon as it can be accomplished.

He says where prisoners work on a public work they should receive the wage or labor to be a generator of tuberculosis, while Principal Keeper Hagaman characterized the place as a "hell hole." The latter told the committee that often unruly prisoners were put in the dark cells instead of in the dungeon. The dungeons were inspected and those found were ordered to be repaired. They have been without toilet facilities and convicts who have been confined in them said they were compelled by the keeper and compelled to assume a stooping position.

PENSIONS FOR "DESERVING."

Belleville, Ill., Feb. 3.—In an attempt to turn public opinion against its striking employes, the Atlas Powder company is advertising its pension system for employes who have been "continuously in the service for 15 years."

If a person had been employed for 20 consecutive years, and had received a wage of $3 a month for the first year, with $1 added each year, a pension of $15 a month, providing he proved by his conduct during employment, and after, that he was worthy.

The company's board of directors is given wide latitude in the matter. In section 5 of the regulations provide:

"The board of directors may deny, withhold or modify any pension allowance to any employe or pensioner whenever it shall be deemed such employe or pensioner undeserving."

MUST INSURE EMPLOYES.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 2.—The state supreme court has upheld section 22 of the Ohio workmen's compensation law, which provides that employers failing to insure their workmen are liable for damages awarded by the state industrial commission.

Several hundred cases throughout the state have been left undecided until the highest court rendered final decision on the legality of this section, which was outlined in the common pleas court of this county. This decision was reversed by the court of appeals and the latest decision is now sustained by the state supreme court.

FAVOR SHORTER WORK DAY.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 2.—The Washington state Conference for Social Service made this shorter work day declaration at its convention held in this city:

"For the purpose of stabilizing unemployment and conserving the health of the workers, promoting industrial efficiency and increasing leisure, we favor the shortest possible work and business day, with eight hours maximum during the 24 hour period, a six-day week for all labor with Saturday half holiday wherever possible, or in lieu thereof, a mid-week half holiday for all workers."

ASK $2 FOR 10-HOUR DAY.

Rice Lake, Wis., Feb. 2.—Federal labor union No. 15,384, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has petitioned the Rice Lake Lumber company to establish a minimum wage scale of $2 for a 10-hour day. Non-unionists signed the petition prepared by the union. It is stated that the present scale of wages "is such as to place Rice Lake in a class by itself as the poorest town in the state for the laboring man."

RAISE WAGES 10 PER CENT.

Allentown, Pa., Feb. 3.—A 10 per cent wage increase, a union shop contract and a reduction of hours has been secured by employes of the Lehigh Star Building company, as the result of a strike.

UNLIMITED BENEFITS POSSIBLE BY UNITING

Chicago, Feb. 2.—"The underlying principles governing trade unions tend to kindle the fires of sympathy, of mutual helpfulness and co-operation," writes President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union in the official journal of that organization.

"Organization develops the finer attributes inherent in the human frame and thereby helps to mitigate the influence of the baser instincts.

"Organization is a potent factor in the distribution of wealth; it tends to reduce the exorbitant profits appropriated by capital and add the share rightfully claimed by labor.

"Organization tends to eliminate passion and prejudice; it strengthens the desire for fair play, equity, economic and social justice. It creates a healthier view of the relations between capital and labor.

"Organization fosters and encourages the interests and aspirations of a growing majority against the grasping selfishness of a dwindling minority.

"Organization offers a haven of refuge for the oppressed of all nations upon terms of equality, with equal rights and duties to men and women.

"Organization increases strength, develops independence and manhood; it cements the bonds of common interest in a wider field of mutual endeavor and to the promotion of the common welfare.

"Organization stands as a barrier against the selfish interests and encroachments of intrenched wealth and its destructive tendencies to reduce the masses of the people to a state of abject misery and suffering periods of industrial depression.

"Organization analyzes and rejects the sham reforms and false pretense of so-called philanthropists; exposes the fallacies of the doctrines of political economists in their efforts to justify the poverty and degradation of labor.

"Organization imparts the banner of lofty ideals, of new hopes and aspirations, and is a new message dedicated to the promotion of the general welfare of the toilers of the land."

FIRE TRAP EMPLOYER JAILED.

New York, Feb. 3.—Samuel Barkin, an officer of the Essex Shirt company, was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for not less than two and not more than four years by Supreme Court Justice Kapper.

Barkin was convicted of manslaughter in the second degree in connection with the fire in the factory building of the Diamond Candy company, Brooklyn, Nov. 6, 1915, in which 12 persons lost their lives.

Barkin's owners occupied the third floor. His conviction was based upon the fact that a door in his factory was kept locked, in violation of the labor law. This, it was shown, prevented escape of the workers and caused the great loss of life.

"The lesson of this conviction should be far-reaching and should provide a measure security hereafter to all factory operatives," said Justice Kapper, in passing sentence.

Barkin's partner and the owner of the building and her husband are awaiting trial on charges similar to the one on which Barkin was tried.

WANT COSSACKS IN MISSOURI.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 3.—Assemblyman Zellweger scorns the stereotyped plea of those who favor the compensation fund.

These cossacks are usually urged because they will "protect the farmer." Mr. Zellweger makes no pretense of dodging the issue and has introduced a bill which would make it mandatory for the governor to appoint special officers or constables to protect the applicants of any common carrier, "provided such officers and constables are fully paid by such corporation applying for their appointment."

It is understood, of course, that the common carrier will relieve the governor of any duties in connection with the selection of these special officers.

The author of this bill lives in Springfield, where the local traction company has attempted for the past few months to smash the Street Car Men's union.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" FAD SPREADS.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 3.—The necessity for compulsory legislation to keep unionists against any legislation that would deny them the right to strike was urged by the labor members of the state legislature by Assemblyman Goetting of San Francisco. The bill applies to public utility corporations and prohibits strikes until a board reports on the case.

To take the case off the act, and to affect a degree of fairness, employers are debarred from inaugurating a lockout. Any one who "incites" strikes or lockouts may be fined from $50 to $1,000 or imprisoned from 25 days to 16 months.

NO INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS.

Hazelton, Pa., Feb. 1.—Where mine operators make individual contracts with their employes, the United Mine Workers signed last year by both parties, rules Charles P. Neill, umpire for the anthracite conciliation board. The decision was made in the case of a machine miner, and it is claimed that the organization's members have a point for which they have contended for years. The decision abolishes favoritism to miners who are assigned to work with the bosses' men with the privilege of employing as many laborers as the contract miner pleases. It will insure a fair chance for getting full pay, as guaranteed by the agreement. This, the union claims, is lacking under the individual agreement.

PREACHES BUT DON'T PRACTICE.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 3.—A woman publicity manager of the New York policestate's attorney to enlist President Wilson in the advantages of living on 25 cents a day.

The enthusiastic dame failed to practice what she preached and enjoyed delicious and expensive steaks of one of Washington's most select hotels.

SECURE FIRST AGREEMENT.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 2.—Members of the Amalgamating Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers in this vicinity, known as the tenth district, have secured their first agreement.

MILK DRIVERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Milk Wagon Drivers' union has compromised its wage demands of $100 a month. The rates are increased from $90 to $92.50.

ORGANIZED AND RAISE WAGES.

Princeton, Ill., Feb. 2.—Painters at this place organized a union and secured a raise and the nine-hour day within 24 hours.

President Gompers' Fifty Years of Service Officially Recognized by Trade Unionists

New York, Feb. 3.—Geographically considered, the largest gathering of trade unionists in the history of the American labor movement honored President Gompers last Sunday, the anniversary of his golden wedding, his sixty-seventh birthday and 50 years of active service in the trade union movement.

Trade unionists from Canada, the Pacific coast and the extreme south were included in the 1,100 present at the dinner jointly arranged by committees representing the American Federation of Labor, the New York State Federation of Labor and the Central Federated Union of New York City and Vicinity. Robert P. Skeldell was chairman of this committee and Ernest Bohm acted as secretary.

Seated immediately in front of the first table was President Gompers' father, Saul, 90 years of age, and totally blind. To prove that he was as young as the rest he made a speech of appreciation on behalf of "this boy" and himself.

First Vice President Duncan, of the A. F. of L., acted as toastmaster, and introduced the speakers in the following order:

Hugh Frayne, general organizer, A. F. of L.

Frank Morrison, secretary, A. F. of L.

Robert F. Wagner, senator, state of New York.

Anthony Caminetti, commissioner general of immigration, who represented Secretary of Labor Wilson.

Edward Swan, district attorney, New York county.

Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, representing the four railroad brotherhoods.

Alton B. Parker, who represented the A. F. of L. in the Danbury hatters' case.

Ralph Easley, chairman executive council, National Civic Federation.

Frank X. Sullivan, counsel, New York State Federation of Labor.

George W. Perkins, president, Cigar Makers' International union.

When President Gompers was introduced, he received an ovation rarely accorded an individual.

"A demonstration of his character in my honor," he said, "forces me to take an introspective view of myself to ask myself whether I am really deserving of all these tributes. For I am conscious of but one fact: I hold it to be the self-evident duty of every man and every woman to do his or her part in the world. It is not given to all to have the opportunity of like service. If each man does the day's work as opportunity gives it to him, he has done his level best and measures up to the man who has had wider and broader opportunities.

"This great movement of ours for a better life, a better day, is not simply one that deals in cataclysms, in revolutions, in revolutionary methods, but is a constant, persistent, never-ending work to make today a better day than yesterday, to make tomorrow a better day than was today, to make tomorrow's tomorrow and that morrow's morrow better than the day before. And through this evolutionary work we see sprout more light for the producers of the world."

A letter was read from President Wilson in which the chief executive expressed his appreciation of President Gompers' efforts in behalf of humanity. Similar letters were read from members of the president's cabinet, Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark of the house of representatives.

Large numbers of congratulatory telegrams from trade unionists on this continent, cablegrams from the Great Britain and German trade union movements were also received by President Gompers.

The occasion was not only an honor to the executive of the American Federation of Labor, but the trade union movement honored itself for this historic recognition of a trust that has been so loyally observed.

DEMAND RIGHT TO STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—Railroad brotherhood officials and railroad managers presented their respective views on the subject to prohibit strikes pending an investigation before the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

"Compulsory investigation means compulsory service, which we oppose," said W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. "We believe the United States supreme court set its decision against anything of this kind when, in 1897, Robertson, et al. vs. Harry Baldwin, it declared, 'We are not disposed to say that we enacted by the state which will in any way, by consent or otherwise, deprive any citizen of his right to quit work at any time and for any reason sufficient to himself.'

"We do not agree that if in either necessary or just to hold an employe in any service against his will. To do so means enforced service, which is slavery in the strictest sense.

"We hold to the right to work, or quit, as we decide will be for our best interests, believing that our welfare, decently expressed and fairly insisted upon, is our first concern; and while it may inconvenience the public if the men do quit in a body, it is not to be compared in the furtherance of our demands, we maintain that it should be purely within our right that the public has no interest, even though public inconvenience be the result."

Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, combatted the idea that an anti-strike law is impracticable. He said this principle is now being applied on 30 per cent of the roads of this country.

URGE STATE INSURANCE ONLY.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 2.—At a joint session of the senate and house labor committees C. N. Replogle of the Ralston Steel Car company, urged the proposal to withdrew from the state compensation fund because it found it more advantageous to insure with a private casualty company.

Murmurs of approval by private liability and casualty companies until T. J. Duffy of the state commission explained that the Ralston company had insisted upon it, and that otherwise it would not have installed. He added that the first insurance company which he had approached refused to withdrew because it found the risks unprofitable and that the car company had since induced another liability concern to protect it from damage suits.

The legislative committees are holding public hearings on the bill to permit of the state federation of labor to prohibit private companies from writing liability insurance in Ohio.

11-HOUR DAY CAUSES STRIKE.

Crawfordsville, Ind., Feb. 2.—Girls employed in the packing department of the Indiana Match company demanded that when they were called upon to accept an 11-hour work day. After four days of the controversy they were granted the 10-hour day and abandon overtime two days a week.

Last October the girls were forced to work two days a week for 13 hours. Later this was increased to three nights a week and before Christmas the girls were working 13 hours four nights a week.

It is claimed that the work of a packer is the hardest in the plant and that 10 hours' work wears the girls out. They struck when they were forced to think of the speed of the machine that brings the matches to them.

Local unionists are urging the girls to organize.

ROLLERMAKERS WIN UNION SHOP.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 3.—Striking boilermakers employed at the Bessemer pipe shop have secured a union shop agreement and a 50-cent wage increase. Double time will be paid for overtime and Sunday work.

Casper, Wyo., Feb. 2.—Boiler Makers' union No. 286 has secured a union shop agreement with the Standard Oil company, which is declared to be the best agreement the boiler makers have anywhere. The scale is to establish $6 for boiler makers is 68.3-4 cents an hour and for helpers, 50 cents. The company has promised to do all in his power to raise the latter scale 2 1-2 cents within the next 60 days.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 2.—The Omit Trades and Labor Assembly has protested to Governor Stanley and the prison commissioners against the renewal of contracts for the labor of prisoners in the Kentucky penitentiary that will expire next April.

The unionists declare against any and all contracts for convict labor by the state, and that convicts should be employed only on state work and not for the profit of individuals or corporations in competition with free labor.

PRINTERS' HOURS REDUCED.

Milwaukee, Feb. 3.—Judge John C. Karen, of the county court chambers, acting as arbiter in the case of the Typographical union and Milwaukee daily newspapers, has accepted the union's decision and orders that hours shall be reduced from eight to seven and one-half.

LABORERS WANT MORE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 2.—The Hod Carriers' Building and Common Laborers' union is asking for an eight-hour day and a wage increase of 10 cents an hour.

DECLARES WHIPPING POST DOESN'T CURE CRIMINALS

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 2.—Warden Cross, of the New Castle county workhouse, is against the whipping post, an institution that has been maintained in this state for years, and which it is now proposed shall be abolished by legislative action.

"I am not convinced that the whipping post is beneficial in any way for the reforming of criminals," said the prison official. "Many of the men come to the basement and thus avoid the crime is not logical, for from my experience I find that the whipping post does not palliate punishment for the crime they are about to commit.

"It is hard to take a man to the whipping yard, whip him and then tell him to go home to his friend. He will not believe it and I find that a whipping, instead of improving the conduct of a prisoner, makes him sullen, hard to handle and more than ever an enemy of the state and society."

The whipping post recalled the early days of England when crimes of almost any sort were punished with death or with banishment. He used this as an argument that physical pain is of no use in reforming a criminal.

GOVERNOR HUNT DEFEATED.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 2.—The state supreme court has ruled that Thomas R. Campbell, who opposed Governor Hunt, in the election last fall, was properly elected. The successful contestant was given a certificate of election by the recount board which had received a plurality of 36. Governor Hunt appealed to the supreme court, which now holds that the certificate is prima facie evidence of election. Justice Cunningham dissented from this decision.

Governor Hunt was loyally supported by labor in his contest and many of his state because of his refusal to permit the importation of gunmen during the strike of 1915 against the Clifton-Metcalf-Morenci district, which started September 11, 1915. The strikers won and the operators attempted to have Governor Hunt recalled.

THE "GREAT DETECTIVE" FINED.

New York, Feb. 3.—William J. Burns, the "great detective," was fined $100, with an alternative of 20 days in jail, for entering the offices of the Call without leaving copies of private papers and then refusing to leave.

In finding Burns guilty the court laid down the legal principle that no private detective has a right to enter a man's office or dwelling and examine his private correspondence and papers.

"It would be giving a private detective more power than a policeman," declared Justice Collins. "The man pays a private detective's salary to get his private letters and papers, and a lawyer's office may safely be entered, what protection would a client have?"

HOTEL CONDITIONS BAD.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 3.—A glimpse behind the scenes in Massachusetts hotels is shown in the report of a state commission on living conditions of employes in 39 hotels throughout the state. Meals served to employes are classified as good, fair and poor. "A meal described as poor," the report says, "consists of meat made of all sorts of left-over food, salt meat often spoiled, potatoes, bread and tea. There is never enough for a second helping, and butter and dessert are never served. Much discontent is found among hotel workers because of the tip system and the uncertainties of the income."

It is recommended that these workers be granted a one day rest in seven.

MOTHERS' PENSION LAW UPHELD

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 2.—Judge Edwards has ruled that the state's mothers' pension act is constitutional and has ordered the county comptroller to provide initial funds of $8,000 for the pension commission of this county.

"The attempt to bring the provisions of the mothers' pension law in question in the prohibition of the constitution is a strain on the principles of reasonable interpretation," said the court.

CAR CLEANERS RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 2.—Car cleaners employed at the King street railroad passenger station have raised wages 5 cents per hour effective at once.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 2.—At the second annual session of the state federation of labor a workmen's compensation law and an eight-hour day for women were indorsed.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Feb. 2.—Typographical union No. 7 has secured substantial wage increases for its newspaper members as a result of conferences. Negotiations were started for increases for book and job members.

REJECT TAYLOR SYSTEM.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The advocates of the Taylor system and other sweating systems of "efficiency" were defeated in the house when they attempted to strike an anti-Taylor system provision from the fortification bill appropriations bill on motion of Congressman Gordon, representing one of the Ohio districts.

Mr. Gordon pleaded with his colleagues to confirm the senate action and said: "Without this or some similar system there is absolutely no way of determining how to wage manufacturing establishment what it costs to make an article. No honest man who desires his employer to know what amount of work he does in a given time can have any possible objection to this provision. It simply keeps a record of the amount and cost to the government of producing any part of the work. I cannot for the life of me see why an honest man should object to the government knowing what it gets for its money."

Members of the house refused to be moved by Congressman Gordon's plea which did not include labor's repeated statement that it did not object to a good system, but to the "efficiency" advocates.

ANTI-UNION CLAIM EXPOSED.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Anti-union employers in this city have persistently claimed that "closed shop" conditions in San Francisco, These claims are now exposed by Dr. H. M. Rustall, industrial investigator employed by the San Francisco chamber of commerce. He blames land sharks for this city's troubles. "San Francisco's abnormal growth in the industrial growth by the comparatively high cost of land within its boundaries available for industrial purposes," he says.

"San Francisco has the highest average wage rates in the city of the United States. The high rate does not seem to increase materially manufacturing costs. The difference is the percentage which wages make of total costs of manufacture it appears that wages do not constitute the principal factor in such total costs than in other American cities."

LAWMAKERS SHOULD THINK.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 2.—Mrs. Ina P. Williams, representing Yakima county in the state legislature, seems to take her lawmaking duties seriously.

"We are living in a revolutionary period, both socially and commercially," she said. "What is the kind of service is needed to cope with the problems of such an era. We can no longer simply use the legislative mold and get results.

"We must get to the bottom of things, learn the fundamental causes of the disturbances in labor, commerce and industry. Instead of in blissful ignorance stating, 'I do not believe in labor unions,' we should find out where the causes are that have brought about the unrest and agitation for changed conditions."

MAHON ON A. F. OF L. BOARD.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has elected William D. Mahon of Detroit to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Third Vice President Hayes.

The new vice president is president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America. Last year he, together with President Wolf of the International Photo Engravers' union, represented the American Federation of Labor at the British Trades Union Congress.

UNION AGREEMENT UPHELD.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 2.—Justice Evans has upheld an agreement between bootblacks in this city that they will not violate a shorter work-day pledge they would pay each of the others $2. Prior to the agreement the bootblacks worked 16 hours a day. Two of the signers to this contract violated it and attachment proceedings were started by the plaintiffs. Evans ruled against the defendants and ordered that they pay $20 in each case, $10 attorney fees, $7 costs and $19 for witness fees.

TO PROTECT CEMENT WORKERS.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 2.—Former hatchet between organized labor and cement companies will be renewed at this session of the state legislature because of the workers' attempt to require cement being inclosed in dustproof sacks. This proposed law requiring sacking of cement after a short strike. The new rates are 21-2 and 21-1-2 cents an hour. These workers are members of the Brotherhood of Railway Car Men.

ON INDUSTRY'S BATTLE FIELD.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 3.—Five laborers were badly burned in an explosion of gas at the Buffalo Union Furnace company's plant. One of the men died shortly afterward. Two others are so badly injured their recovery is doubtful.

LIMITED WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 3.—Governor Frazier has signed the act recently passed by the state legislature which provides limited suffrage to all but colored women.

ANTI-STRIKE SOPHISTS DON'T FOOL UNIONISTS

Trinidad, Col., Feb. 3.—Editor O'Neill of the Trinidad Free Press hits straight from the shoulder in discussing legislation intended to prohibit strikes. Newspapers have charged President Gompers with using the term "involuntary servitude," in his opposition to this legislation, for the effect its meaning will convey to the minds of men and women to whom slavery is repulsive.

This these newspapers Editor O'Neill says:

"With all the cunning genius and fallacious sophistry utilized by the scribbling defenders of compulsory arbitration, the fact cannot be hidden that workers who are compelled by law to submit their case to an investigation conducted by a board of arbitration, ere they can use the weapons of resistance against the economic czar, are slaves, and the juggling of words is clouding the issue can remove the fact that the man who is compelled by law to remain at work against his will, is nothing more or less than a victim of involuntary servitude.

"Mr. Gompers, as well as other officials of the labor movement, together with scores of labor editors, have stripped compulsory arbitration of its sophistry and demonstrated by unanswerable argument and logic to the laboring millions of this country that any law which has for its object from the hand of the worker leaves labor not only bereft of its most powerful weapon, but places capital in a fortress that is practically impregnable, so far as organized labor is concerned.

"The labor union, robbed of its most powerful weapon to combat the oppression of a master class, has but little reason for existence, for if labor must appeal to laws that are but chains and shackles to hold labor in subjection, then 'the right of labor to organize' is a mockery and a snare and the trustees before going to the public."

The writer stated that "it is now notorious that the Carnegie pension plan has overreached itself and broken down and that the colleges have found the purse and hearts for the first times in 10 years." Mr. Irwin said that there is reason to fear that the Carnegie corporation has established the publication and advertisement of books by Messrs. Reed, Taft and others which attack modern tendencies in government.

HEALTH A COMMUNITY ASSET.

Boston, Feb. 2.—At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health Dr. Harrington pointed out the enormous value of prevention in promoting industrial efficiency. "The complete eradication of phosphorous poisoning in the match industry in Europe," he said, "and the reduction of occupational diseases, injuries, and death, where proper methods have been established are but some of the possibilities of this form of education against industrial losses.

"None of the industrial diseases except anthrax—is due to micro-organisms. These are due to dusts, fumes, vapors, chemical poisons, dusts of various kinds, overheated workshops, stagnant, dry, and overcrowded atmospheres, dampness, lack of toilet, drinking and washing facilities, overspeeding, low wages, fatigue, job monotony and other causes, social, economic and physical."

"FIRST AID" TO INJURED.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 2.—An amendment to the present industrial act which will afford first aid to the injured, has been introduced in the state legislature at the request of organized labor.

The proposed law provides that the cost of transportation of an injured workman from the place of injury to the nearest place of proper treatment shall be borne by the employer. No employer, who shall so convey such injured workman without unnecessary delay, shall be responsible for the cost. Provision for the employer to deduct or obtain any refund from the workman's wages or any part of any workman's pay for the carrying out of the provisions of the act.

OPPOSE ALLEGED PENSION PLAN.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 2.—The Central Labor Union has called on trade unionists and friends to defeat an old age pension plan for municipal employes that has been indorsed by the city council and which will be submitted to a popular vote next month.

The unionists declare the plan should be labeled compulsory insurance. Employes will be required to contribute but no provision is made for any donation by the municipality.

IRON MOLDERS' WAGES RAISED.

San Francisco, Feb. 3.—The California Foundrymen's association has notified officials of the Iron Molders' union that a wage increase of 25 cents a day will be paid every molder in its employ. The scale has been established by the foundrymen for the past year, although they made no formal demands, as they are bound by contract that does not expire until September.

A "SCIENTIFIC" BILL.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Legislator Lehrbass favors regulating working hours for women on a "scientific" basis. His amendment to the 9-hour law would permit women more than 30 years of age to work 60 hours a week on presentation of a doctor's certificate.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., Feb. 2.—As a result of agitation by the municipal electrical employes, chartered by the A. F. of L., the common council has raised wages of those employed in the municipal plant and though the union's efforts it is predicted that all city employes will receive wage increases in the near future.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 3.—The strike of organized brewery workers has been compromised, the employers agreeing to a 54-hour week wage increase, seven holidays annually with pay, the lay-off period to be not more than two weeks and one day of Sunday work for drivers. The strike involved over 500 employes.

PAPER HANGERS ORGANIZE.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3.—Paper hangers have organized and are chartered by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers.

RAISE DAILY WAGE TO $4.50.

Wichita Falls, Tex., Feb. 3.—Contractors have signed an eight-hour agreement with the union which raises rates from 45 to 75 cents an hour.

BRICKLAYERS RAISE WAGES.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3.—Contractors are accepting the eight-hour day with the union which raises rates from 45 to 75 cents an hour.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Indianapolis, Feb. 3.—General Secretary Duffy of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, reports these recent gains by locals of this craft:

Ft. Smith, Ark., Feb. 2.—Wages increased from $4 to $4.50 a day.

Tulsa, Okla.—Increased from $4-1-4 to $4.50 a day.

Parsons, Kan.—Increases from 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Paris, Texas—Increases from 45 to 50 cents an hour.

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WEALTHY EDUCATORS BARRED BY SENATE

Washington, Feb. 3.—The senate has made it illegal, punishable by a fine of $1,000 or six months' imprisonment, for any government bureau to receive any money or the services of any person who is paid by any individual, organization or such foundations as those created by John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie.

It was shown that there are 17 persons employed by the federal bureau of education in Washington who are paid an annual salary of $1 a year. Their actual salary is paid by organizations having no connection with the federal government.

"Special collaborators" to the number of 45 are employed by the bureau of education under the same plan, and that the same number are paid an annual salary of $1 for honorary service to the bureau.

Senator Chamberlain started the fight against possible "big business" control of our educational system. Senator Kenyon declared that colleges that have asked aid from the Rockefeller Foundation have been forced to change their studies before financial assistance was granted.

Senator Hitchcock brought out the fact that any of these privately-paid employes will investigate a question at the request of the bureau of education and the document then becomes a government publication, issued and forwarded under the frank of the stroke of franking privileges. Under this scheme, it was shown, private individuals or organizations can have their views scattered broadcast without cost and thereby gaining the government's stamp of approval.

Senator Chamberlain read a letter from William H. Allen, director of the institute for public service, New York, who declared that "the publicity work for all the foundations is done by me." Mr. Allen said that he was responsible for the publicity man, Mr. Ivy Lee, who has no official relation to these foundations and that publicity work is not submitted to the trustees before going to the publisher."

The writer stated that "it is now notorious that the Carnegie pension plan has overreached itself and broken down and that the colleges have found the purse and hearts for the first times in 10 years."

Mr. Irwin said that there is reason to fear that the Carnegie corporation has established the publication and advertisement of books by Messrs. Reed, Taft and others which attack modern tendencies in government.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ASSET.

Boston, Feb. 2.—At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health Dr. Harrington pointed out the enormous value of prevention in promoting industrial efficiency. "The complete eradication of phosphorous poisoning in the match industry in Europe," he said, "and the reduction of occupational diseases, injuries, and death, where proper methods have been established are but some of the possibilities of this form of education against industrial losses.

"None of the industrial diseases except anthrax—is due to micro-organisms. These are due to dusts, fumes, vapors, various chemical poisons, dusts of various kinds, overheated workshops, stagnant, dry, and overcrowded atmospheres, dampness, lack of toilet, drinking and washing facilities, overspeeding, low wages, fatigue, job monotony and other causes, social, economic and physical."

"FIRST AID" TO INJURED.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 2.—An amendment to the present industrial act which will afford first aid to the injured, has been introduced in the state legislature at the request of organized labor.

The proposed law provides that the cost of transportation of an injured workman from the place of injury to the nearest place of proper treatment shall be borne by the employer. No employer, who shall so convey such injured workman without unnecessary delay, shall be responsible for the cost. Provision for the employer to deduct or obtain any refund from the workman's wages or any part of any workman's pay for the carrying out of the provisions of the act.

OPPOSE ALLEGED PENSION PLAN.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 2.—The Central Labor Union has called on trade unionists and friends to defeat an old age pension plan for municipal employes that has been indorsed by the city council and which will be submitted to a popular vote next month.

The unionists declare the plan should be labeled compulsory insurance. Employes will be required to contribute but no provision is made for any donation by the municipality.

IRON MOLDERS' WAGES RAISED.

San Francisco, Feb. 3.—The California Foundrymen's association has notified officials of the Iron Molders' union that a wage increase of 25 cents a day will be paid every molder in its employ. The scale has been established by the foundrymen for the past year, although they made no formal demands, as they are bound by contract that does not expire until September.

A "SCIENTIFIC" BILL.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Legislator Lehrbass favors regulating working hours for women on a "scientific" basis. His amendment to the 9-hour law would permit women more than 30 years of age to work 60 hours a week on presentation of a doctor's certificate.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., Feb. 2.—As a result of agitation by the municipal electrical employes, chartered by the A. F. of L., the common council has raised wages of those employed in the municipal plant and though the union's efforts it is predicted that all city employes will receive wage increases in the near future.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 3.—The strike of organized brewery workers has been compromised, the employers agreeing to a 54-hour week wage increase, seven holidays annually with pay, the lay-off period to be not more than two weeks and one day of Sunday work for drivers. The strike involved over 500 employes.

PAPER HANGERS ORGANIZE.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3.—Paper hangers have organized and are chartered by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers.

RAISE DAILY WAGE TO $4.50.

Wichita Falls, Tex., Feb. 3.—Contractors have signed an eight-hour agreement with the union which raises rates for painters, paper hangers and decorators. Wages are increased from $4 to $4.50 a day.